

## OVERVIEW OF THE

### HAWAII QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

The HQAS offers qualified sign language interpreters who do not hold national certification an opportunity to obtain credentials valid within and recognized by the State of Hawaii.

The HQAS establishes interpreting and transliterating standards at various skill levels.

The HQAS consists of a written ethics test and a two-part interpreting/transliterating performance test. Materials, processes and training protocols were drawn from the Kansas Quality Assurance Screening, which has been shown to be a valid and reliable testing instrument.

The HQAS+H includes an optional local Hawaii Creole English competency test. The +H accompanies the standard HQAS and is designed specifically to assess an interpreter's local language competency with both spoken and sign language styles common in Hawaii, sometimes referred to as Pidgin. Candidates may not take the +H separately or at a later date.

The HQAS is administered using local interpreter evaluators to ensure that test results accurately reflect a candidate's ability to interpret within our local community.

### FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE HQAS CREDENTIAL LEVELS:

**Level V** is a master level interpreter-translator. This interpreter can function expressively and receptively in a majority of situations. A person holding a Level V credential should be pursuing national certification. While no restrictions are indicated, this interpreter demonstrates professional judgment in accepting assignments.

**HQAS V+H** is an interpreter-translator who satisfactorily met the requirements for local Hawaii language competency in addition to the requirements defined for the Level V credential.

(Expires 5 years after the date of issue.)

**Level IV** is an accomplished interpreter-translator. This interpreter can function expressively and receptively in most complex and technical situations. A Level IV interpreter may accept assignments for one-on-one and group sessions, as well as workshops and platform assignments. This interpreter is qualified for most medical and dental appointments, and limited legal interpreting, including client/lawyer meetings, and traffic or small claims court.

A Level IV interpreter should pursue continuing professional education or national certification. A Level IV interpreter should avoid critical medical situations, criminal court and civil court jury trials.

**HQAS IV+H** is an interpreter-translator who satisfactorily met the requirements for local Hawaii language competency in addition to the requirements defined for the Level IV credential.

(Expires 5 years after the date of issue.)

**Level III** is an intermediate level interpreter-translator. Level III is the lowest level receiving a credential as a qualified interpreter. This interpreter may accept assignments for many group sessions and workshops and most one-on-

one situations.

A Level III interpreter should be actively involved in professional development efforts.

An interpreter holding a Level III credential should not accept assignments for legal, mental health, or critical medical situations.

**HQAS III+H** is an interpreter-translator who satisfactorily met the requirements for local Hawaii language competency in addition to the requirements defined for the Level III credential.

(Expires 2 years after the date of issue.)

**Level II** is an entry-level communication assistant. The Level II communication assistant will be able to interpret during orientation sessions and basic tutoring sessions. A Level II communication assistant may accept assignments where communication can be interpreted consecutively in one-on-one situations, limited group sessions and workshops; and may accept limited platform assignments when accompanied and supervised by a qualified mentor.

A person holding a Level II credential should not accept assignments for legal, mental health, medical, employment interviews or critical situations of any nature.

**HQAS II+H** is an interpreter-translator who satisfactorily met the requirements for local Hawaii language competency in addition to the requirements defined for the Level II credential.

(Expires 2 years after the date of issue.)

**Level I** is a beginner level candidate. A Level I candidate is not considered qualified for professional assignments. This candidate may provide limited interpreting in low risk situations as an unpaid apprentice when accompanied by a qualified mentor. Further professional development is required prior to reevaluation.

(No credential is issued.)